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same disparity between the political institutions and ideas of different nations would effectually frustrate any general confederation. He recognizes, however, that without such an attempt the Hague Conference would have been impossible, and he also credits it with having given added sanction to international law. In an introductory chapter, the author traces the chief efforts at European confederation from the Grand Design of Henry IV of France onward, establishing the fact that each in turn grew out of a former effort and that none would have been attempted without the preceding steps. In this way he views the whole history of such movements as an entity, the last step in which was the establishment of the Hague tribunal.

Mr. Phillips gives special prominence to Castlereagh, and goes far towards correcting the shallow judgment of that statesman, which has persisted to our own time. The discussion of the genesis of the Monroe Doctrine is particularly interesting to Americans. The author calls attention to the apparent inconsistency that this famous instrument, formulated for the express purpose of frustrating the altruistic and idealistic conception of a world confederation to regulate the family of nations, has become one by which we ourselves claim the right of intervention.

The fascinating and unfortunate Alexander I is depicted more sympathetically than is usual at the hands of an English author. While clearly demonstrating that the English attitude of opposition to the confederation was the only sound and practical one, Mr. Phillips insists that Alexander was both sincere and persistent in his effort to bring about a successful confederation at first of Europe and later of the whole world.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Phillips has at times not drawn a clear distinction between the Holy Alliance and the Quadruple and Triple Alliances. The effectiveness of the book is also marred by long quotations, but the theme is interesting, and the lessons to be learned from the facts pointed out ought certainly to be well considered before we attempt to deal with the problem of world peace.

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STOCKTON, CHARLES H. *Outlines of International Law.* Pp. xvii, 615. Price, \$2.50. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1914.

The author of this volume has long been recognized as an authority on international law, and this is not the first book which he has given to the public. He was one of the two American delegates to the London Naval Conference in 1909. His knowledge of the laws and usages governing maritime warfare is especially full and accurate. The entire volume is written with a clearness, conciseness, and directness of style well befitting a textbook for the average beginner of the subject.

As regards arrangement and method of treatment, the volume presents nothing striking or new. It is a textbook rather than a treatise, and the statement of rules occupies more space than the discussion of principles. There are five appendices, containing, among other documents, the Declaration of London, together with the general report presented to the conference on behalf of its drafting committee, and the proclamation of neutrality issued by President Wilson at the beginning of the present war.

Following the practice of Oppenheim, Wilson, and other recent writers on international law, Admiral Stockton has embodied in the text extensive quotations from the various Hague conventions and a large part of the Declaration of London. In view of the indefinite status of the Hague conventions and of the Declaration of London, the embodiment of their rules in a textbook appears to be unfortunate. As to the status of the Hague conventions during the present war even government officials seem to be hopelessly at sea, while it has been conceded by all parties that the Declaration of London as such is not now in force. It is true, of course, that the Declaration represents an attempt on the part of a conference of experts of wide reputation and unquestioned ability to codify the existing rules of international law relating to maritime warfare, but on some points where English and American practice was widely at variance with that of the continental Powers, the framers of the Declaration undertook to lay down definite rules, and the rules so laid down have not been agreed to by all the powers. The Declaration, therefore, carries with it merely the authority of the delegates who participated in the conference, and not necessarily the sanction of the powers they represented. In view of the wholly unexpected developments of the present war, it seems likely that the rules of maritime warfare will have to be again thoroughly revised. The present volume, as well as several other recent textbooks which are made up so largely of concrete statements of rules, will in all probability be rendered entirely obsolete, whereas many of the older treatises dealing more largely with the discussion of fundamental principles and cases will always possess a certain value.

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TOUT, T. F. *The Place of the Reign of Edward II in English History.* Pp. xvi, 421. Price, \$3.50. New York: Longmans, Green and Company, 1914.

The traditional conception of Edward II, Professor Tout leaves unaltered. "There is," he says, "little fresh to be said as to the personal deficiencies of the unlucky Edward II" (p. 9); but the commonly accepted *dictum* of Stubbs concerning the reign, that "outside of the dramatic crisis it may be described as exceedingly dreary" (*Chronicles of the Reigns of Edward I and Edward II*, II, lxxv), Professor Tout refutes once for all. The opinion of the bishop of Oxford reflects accurately enough the impression created by the narrative and documentary sources which had been printed when his opinion was formed, if they be studied from the standpoint that by far the most important institutional development of the period was that of parliament. Professor Tout has gone far behind these sources and has dug deeply into the mass of unpublished manuscripts written by clerks of Edward's chancery, exchequer, and wardrobe. He looks at the reign through the medium of these records and concludes that it was a turning-point of fundamental significance in the administrative history of the latter middle ages. To the establishment of this point of view he devotes the major portion of his book.

As a preliminary to the administrative history of Edward II's reign, Professor Tout describes the system which Edward II inherited from his father. His chapter on this subject is intended only as a sketch; nevertheless it contains the best survey known to me of the administrative machinery of the chancery, exchequer, and wardrobe as it existed at the close of the thirteenth century and the